

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**JOHN HANCOCK BANK AND THRIFT OPPORTUNITY FUND
JOHN HANCOCK HEDGED EQUITY & INCOME FUND
JOHN HANCOCK INCOME SECURITIES TRUST
JOHN HANCOCK INVESTORS TRUST**

DECLARE QUARTERLY DISTRIBUTIONS

BOSTON, MA (December 1, 2011) – The four John Hancock closed-end funds listed below declared their quarterly distributions today as follows:

Declaration Date: December 1, 2011
Ex Date: December 8, 2011
Record Date: December 12, 2011
Payment Date: December 30, 2011

Ticker	Fund Name	Amount	Change From Previous Quarter	Market Price as of 11/30/2011	Annualized Current Distribution Rate at Market
BTO	Bank and Thrift Opportunity Fund	\$0.1959 ¹	-\$0.0232	\$13.50	5.80%
HEQ	Hedged Equity & Income Fund	\$0.3079 ²	-\$0.0546	\$15.06	8.18%
JHI	Investors Trust	\$0.5002	-\$0.0079	\$20.94	9.55%
JHS	Income Securities Trust	\$0.3049	\$0.0153	\$14.80	8.24%

¹ This distribution amount is based on the Fund's NAV of \$15.67 as of October 31, 2011, the Fund's quarterly measuring date.

² This distribution amount is based on the Fund's NAV of \$16.99 as of October 31, 2011, the Fund's quarterly measuring date.

John Hancock Bank and Thrift Opportunity Fund

Bank and Thrift Opportunity Fund (the "Fund") declared its quarterly distribution pursuant to the Fund's managed distribution plan (the "BTO Plan"). Under the BTO Plan, the Fund makes quarterly distributions of an amount equal to 1.25% of the Fund's net asset value ("NAV") as of each measuring date, based upon an annual rate of 5% as of such measuring dates. The amount of each quarterly distribution is determined based on the NAV of the Fund at the close of the New York Stock Exchange on the last business day of the month ending two months prior to each quarterly declaration date.

The BTO Plan intends to fund each distribution, to the extent possible, in a tax-advantaged manner through the realization of long-term capital gains where the distribution amount exceeds net investment income. The Fund will seek to realize capital gains for this purpose in a manner which the Adviser and Subadviser believe is consistent with prudent portfolio management and the investment objective, policies and guidelines of the Fund.

The Fund may also make additional distributions (i) for purposes of avoiding federal income tax on the Fund of investment company taxable income and net capital gain, if any, not included in such regular distributions and (ii) for purposes of avoiding federal excise tax of ordinary income and capital gain net income, if any, not included in such regular quarterly distributions. The Board may terminate or modify the BTO Plan at any time.

John Hancock Hedged Equity & Income Fund

Hedged Equity & Income Fund (the “Fund”) declared its quarterly distribution pursuant to the Fund’s managed distribution plan (the “HEQ Plan”). Under the HEQ Plan, the Fund makes quarterly distributions of an amount equal to 1.8125% of the Fund’s net asset value (“NAV”) as of each measuring date, based upon an annual rate of 7.25% as of such measuring dates. The amount of each quarterly distribution is determined based on the NAV of the Fund at the close of the New York Stock Exchange on the last business day of the month ending two months prior to each quarterly declaration date.

The Fund may also make additional distributions (i) for purposes of avoiding federal income tax on the Fund of investment company taxable income and net capital gain, if any, not included in such regular distributions and (ii) for purposes of avoiding federal excise tax of ordinary income and capital gain net income, if any, not included in such regular quarterly distributions. The Board may terminate or modify the HEQ Plan at any time.

A portion of a Fund’s current distribution may include sources other than net investment income, including a return of capital. Investors should understand that a return of capital is not a distribution from income or gains of a Fund. As required under the Investment Company Act of 1940, a notice with the estimated components of the distribution will be mailed to shareholders at the time of payment if it does not consist solely of net investment income. At this time, one or more of the Funds anticipates that the notice accompanying the current distribution will include an estimate of return of capital. Such notice will also be posted to the Funds’ website at www.jhfunds.com. The notice should not be used to prepare tax returns as the estimates indicated in the notice may differ from the ultimate federal income tax characterization of distributions. After the end of each calendar year, investors will be sent a Form 1099-DIV informing them how to report distributions received during that year for federal income tax purposes.

Statements in this press release that are not historical facts are forward-looking statements as defined by the United States securities laws. You should exercise caution in interpreting and relying on forward-looking statements because they are subject to uncertainties and other factors which are, in some cases, beyond the Fund’s control and could cause actual results to differ materially from those set forth in the forward-looking statements.

An investor should consider a Fund's investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses carefully before investing.

About John Hancock Funds

The Boston-based mutual fund business unit of John Hancock Financial, John Hancock Funds, manages more than \$62.3 billion in open-end funds, closed-end funds, private accounts, retirement plans and related party assets for individual and institutional investors at September 30, 2011.

About John Hancock Financial and Manulife Financial Corporation

John Hancock Financial is a unit of Manulife Financial Corporation, a leading Canadian-based financial services group serving millions of customers in 22 countries and territories worldwide. Operating as Manulife Financial in Canada and in most of Asia, and primarily as John Hancock in the United States, Manulife Financial Corporation offers clients a diverse range of financial protection products and wealth management services through its extensive network of employees, agents and distribution partners. Funds under management by Manulife Financial and its subsidiaries were Cdn\$492 billion (US\$473 billion) at September 30, 2011.

Manulife Financial Corporation trades as 'MFC' on the TSX, NYSE and PSE, and under '945' on the SEHK. Manulife Financial can be found on the Internet at www.manulife.com.

The John Hancock unit, through its insurance companies, comprises one of the largest life insurers in the United States. John Hancock offers a broad range of financial products and services, including [life insurance](#), fixed and variable [annuities](#), [fixed products](#), [mutual funds](#), [401\(k\) plans](#), [long-term care insurance](#), [college savings](#), and other forms of business insurance. Additional information about John Hancock may be found at www.johnhancock.com.